

2nd Level Discernment Special Deanery Gathering

We pray together

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.**

We listen

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 1: 15-23
It was during those days that Peter stood up in the midst of the community and said "Brothers, it was necessary that the scripture referring to Judas be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit had spoken through David about the one who would lead the crowd coming to arrest Jesus. He was one of our number and had been called to share our ministry."

In the Book of Psalms it is written: 'Let his house become deserted and may no one live in it'. And again 'May another take his office'. Therefore we must choose someone from among those who were with us during all that time that the Lord Jesus moved about with us, beginning with John's baptism until the day that Jesus was taken away from us. One of these has to become with us, a witness to his resurrection.

So they proposed two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed "You know, Lord, the hearts of all. Show us, therefore, which of the two you have chosen."

We pause



Prayerful

We consider

Prayer is central to the life and growth of the community. DDPC members recognise the importance of both private and personal prayer. Prayer underpins and strengthens partnership and planning, it will be impossible to work if the Spirit isn't in the work. What is brought into action by the DDPC needs to be a response to God's call to become the People of God, a people called to build the Kingdom, not our own kingdoms.

Participative

The mandate of Christ to continue His mission on earth necessitates that we work together as one body. This means that the DDPC members are not lone rangers but are able to work effectively with each other and with other individuals and groups within the Diocese. We read in 1 Cor. 12:4-6 'There are a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit, there are all sorts of services to be done, but always to the same Lord, working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God working in all of them.' Everything that the DDPC does should be directed by the principle of 'full, conscious and active participation' to help everyone recognise their giftedness and to be fully active in the service of the Diocese.



We consider

Pastoral

All Christians are gifted by the Holy Spirit and are called to use their gifts in the service of God in the Church and in the world. DDPC members are people who recognise that the gifts needed for the Diocese are to be found within the Diocese. They constantly seek to discern the giftedness of people. The DDPC members are called to be a caring, listening presence, available to the people of the Diocese. As individual members they don't promote the ideas of just one group, they take the whole picture on board when making pastoral recommendations. The DDPC is primarily focused on everything that relates to the faith life of the Diocese.

Practical strategic planner

As disciples of Christ committed to sharing the Good News of God's love and life, DDPC members recognise the need to listen, learn and adapt. Planning is about growing others in ministries and helping the Diocese to embrace pastoral changes that help everyone to grow. This planning enables the Diocese to truly activate the gifts of the Spirit received at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation. The pastoral goals of the DDPC will be connected to the Dublin Diocese Statement of Mission.

Partnership driven

DDPC members have a missionary zeal which continually reaches out to others, inviting them to the fullness of the life that God offers and to share in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Baptism is what grounds us in our ministries whether lay or ordained, young or old, experienced or less experienced. All the baptised are called to place their gifts at the service of humankind.


Take a time of silence for about 10mins

After this the Vicar Forane asks people to complete the Membership Consideration Forms

He then invites people to come forward and place the forms in the box. You could have another piece of music playing while this is taking place.



We consider



We pray together

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

**You constantly journey with us even
in our darkness and doubts.**

**We seek your way of loving kindness
to walk together as one family.**

**Open our eyes to recognise you in
the faces of one another,
in the breaking of bread and in the
splendour of creation.**

**May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope
and new life deep within us.**

**May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word,
bringing forth truth, justice and peace.**

**May the Holy Spirit working in and through us
do much more than we can dare to imagine
as we live out our baptismal calling
in humble and loving service.**

We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.

3rd Level Discernment Deanery Committee

We pray together

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and
the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.**

We listen

There are a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

1 Cor. 12:4-7

We pause






We pray

God of silence and God of all sound,
help me to listen.
Help me to do the deep listening to the sounds of my soul,
waiting to hear your soft voice calling me deeper into you.
Give me attentive ears
that begin to separate the noise from the sounds that are you;
you who have been speaking to me
and through me my whole life,
for so long that you can seem like background noise.
Today help me hear you anew.
- Author Unknown

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We consider

The membership is about reflecting the whole People of God throughout the Diocese.

The gifts that each person on the DDPC possesses is that they are:

Prayerful
Participative
Pastoral
Practical strategic planner
Partnership driven

The next level of reflecting the entire People of God is that the member must be drawn from people to provide a mix of:

Gender
Ethnicity
Age
Service/Ministry
Urban/Rural/Socio economic areas

Having read through the candidates submissions what is converging and what is diverging for you?

Take time to share this with the group.

We share

Share with the group the candidate(s) that stand out for you and why?

Where there is convergence on a number of candidates bring their names forward and set the others aside.

Silent prayer

Then out of the candidates remaining who is(are) the one(s) that stand out for you.

Share with the group the candidate(s) that stand out for you. Where there is convergence on a number of candidates bring their names forward and set the rest aside.

We repeat

Repeat the process until the group arrives at the number of candidates this level of discernment is being asked to put forward.

We agree

When the candidates are selected the leader of the meeting will check that all are satisfied with those they have chosen.

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We pray

**Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.
You constantly journey with us even
in our darkness and doubts.
We seek your way of loving kindness
to walk together as one family.
Open our eyes to recognise you in
the faces of one another,
in the breaking of bread and in the
splendour of creation.
May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope
and new life deep within us.
May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word, bringing
forth truth, justice and peace.
May the Holy Spirit working in and through us
do much more than we can dare to imagine
as we live out our baptismal calling
in humble and loving service.
We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St Laurence O'Toole,
pray for us.
St Kevin, pray for us.
St Brigid, pray for us.**



We entrust

All those being considered at each stage of the discernment will be contacted by email to let them know if they are moving to the next level of discernment. Those who are not going forward will be thanked for their willingness to participate in the discernment process. Being set aside from moving to the next stage of discernment is about staying true the membership criteria and that this time they are not being called forward.

In choosing the three names, also hold two in reserve in case someone decides not to go forward to the next level of discernment. The Vicar Forane will contact the five people and give them the DDPC Personal Reflection for Membership form. This form must be completed by the person who has been chosen. It is to be returned to the Vicar Forane

4th Level Discernment Pastoral Area

We pray together

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nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father a
nd the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.**

We listen

Elijah went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then the word of the Lord came to him saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He replied, 'I am filled with jealous zeal for the Lord, because the sons of Israel have deserted you, broken down your altars and put your prophets to the sword. I am the only one left, and they want to kill me.' Then he was told, 'Go and stand on the mountain before the Lord'. The Lord himself then went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountain and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went and stood at the entrance to the cave.

1 Kings 19:9-13

We pause



We pray

Take a moment of silence
Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.

Let your God—
Love you.

Keep in mind that perhaps a person may not have all the gifts. The full group prayerfully discerns that those named should reflect the whole People of God.

We consider

The membership is about reflecting the whole People of God throughout the Diocese.

The gifts that each person on the DDPC possesses is that they are:

- **Prayerful**
- **Participative**
- **Pastoral**
- **Practical strategic planner**
- **Partnership driven**

The next level of reflecting the entire People of God is that the member must be drawn from people to provide a mix of:

- **Gender**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Age**
- **Service/Ministry**
- **Urban/Rural/Socio economic areas.**

We share

Read through each of the candidates submissions. Who is standing out as a suitable candidate and why?

Share with the group the candidate(s) that stand out for you and why?

Where there is convergence on a number of candidates bring their names forward and set the others aside.

Silent prayer

Then out of the candidates remaining who is(are) the one(s) that stand out for you.

We consider

Share with the group the candidate(s) that stand out for you. Where there is convergence on a number of candidates bring their names forward and set the rest aside.

Repeat the process until the group arrives at the number of candidates this level of discernment is being asked to put forward.

When the candidates are selected the leader of the meeting will check that all are satisfied with those they have chosen.

We pray

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

**You constantly journey with us even
in our darkness and doubts.**

**We seek your way of loving kindness
to walk together as one family.**

**Open our eyes to recognise you in
the faces of one another,
in the breaking of bread and in the
splendour of creation.**

**May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope
and new life deep within us.**

**May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word, bringing
forth truth, justice and peace.**

**May the Holy Spirit working in and through us
do much more than we can dare to imagine
as we live out our baptismal calling
in humble and loving service.**

We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St Laurence O'Toole,
pray for us.**

St Kevin, pray for us.

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Final Level Discernment

Diocesan Discernment

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to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth
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All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father a
nd the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.**

We listen

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

Luke 24:28-32

We pause





We pray

Almighty God,
author of my life,
help me learn to read what you have written on my heart.
Give me discerning eyes
and an untiring spirit
to look within me
in order to understand how to reach outside of me.
And once I have begun to read you aright,
give me the generosity to help others to read you,
to sound you out one letter,
one word of radical giving at a time.
- Author Unknown



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We share

Share with the group the candidate(s) that stand out for you and why?

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Silent prayer

Then out of the candidates remaining who is(are) the one(s) that stand out for you.

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We repeat

Repeat the process until the group arrives at the number of candidates this level of discernment is being asked to put forward.

We reflect

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Then out of the candidates remaining who is(are) the one(s) that stand out for you.

We share

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